

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle (1), comprising a base body (2) made of polymer material, as well as metallic additional components (4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11) as part of a slaughtering line, particularly for slaughtering pigs, whereby the polymer material is, in particular, a vulcanized rubber mixture, comprising a rubber component as well as mixture ingredients, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an active inhibitor is mixed into the polymer material, which prevents the growth of microorganisms.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inhibitor is difficult to dissolve in water.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a carrier that is charged with the inhibitor is mixed into the polymer material, specifically with the formation of a carrier/inhibitor adduct.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier is a molecular sieve, particularly on the basis of a sodium-aluminum silicate, specifically with the formation of a molecular sieve/inhibitor adduct.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier consists of fibers, specifically with the formation of a fiber/inhibitor adduct.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inhibitor is distributed in the polymer in essentially uniform manner.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the proportion of the inhibitor, with reference to the total mass of the polymer material is 0.1 to 10 wt.-%.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the proportion of the

inhibitor is 0.5 to 5 wt.-%.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymer material is low in plasticizer, particularly free of plasticizer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rubber component is an ethylene-propylene-diene mixed polymerizate (EPDM) or nitrile rubber (NBR), particularly an EPDM/NBR blend.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rubber component is silicone rubber.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rubber component is butyl rubber (IIR).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the

rubber component is a halogenated rubber.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the halogenated rubber is chlorobutyl rubber (CIIR) or bromobutyl rubber (BIIR).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rubber component is non-blended.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to ~~one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein with reference to the total mass of the polymer material, the proportion of the polymer or rubber or blend component, respectively, is 10 to 70 wt.-%, particularly 30 to 70 wt.-%.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the proportion of the polymer or rubber or blend component, respectively, is 40 to 55 wt.-%.